

1-8
1857
Nov. 17

PERSONAL LETTER from Blanche Declouet at Sacred Heart Convent in Grand Coteau, La. to her brother, Paul Declouet at Brookland School in Greenwood Depot, Virginia.

Grand Coteau, November 17, 1857

My dear brother,

As I have already written to Alexander (our brother), I am hurrying to send you a few lines. I guess that Papa (Alexander Declouet) wrote to you if he has not been too busy because he expected to start the cane harvest last week and he has started indeed what may have caused him plenty of troubles.

I cannot give you very fresh news from the family but, when I left them, all of them were very well except the last one of Mrs. Allison's little boys who was quite ill and I learned very lately that he had died through Mama (Marie Louise Benoit Declouet) who wrote to me a few lines. When I left, Mama did not even come to bring me as far as Aunt Tonton (Josephine Declouet de l'Homme) as she was very worried about him.

I shall tell you with pleasure that Melanie is expected to join me here in January. They also spoke about sending Christine (our sister) one or two months before my vacations to make her get used to it, but I know that Mama and Papa said this to keep me from crying because Mama could not part from her. Christine wants to come but once here, she will wish to return home quickly. Tell Alexander that I have received his letter and will answer him soon.

Good bye, dear brother, kiss Alexandre for me.

Your sister who loves you tenderly,

Blanche Declouet

Handwritten in French. Original on file at Dupre Library at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette, La.

1857
Nov. 19

PERSONAL LETTER from Mr. Darby in New Orleans, to
Alexander Declouet, Jr. at Brookland Academy in Greenwood Depot, Virginia
New Orleans, November 19, 1857

My dear Clouet,

According to your father's (Alexander Declouet) instructions, I
enclose a check for \$400 from the Citizens' Bank to the Bank of America,
New York, in order to pay Mr. Dinwiddie's (Principal of Greenwood Academy
account amounting to \$357. 74; the balance is for Paul (your brother) and you.
When he wrote to me to send you this, he was so occupied by the cane harvest
that he did not have the time to write to you. He had just started, everything
went along perfectly, as I learned again today, through the engineer who
came to the office.

All the family is in good health, so we are also wishing the same
thing to Paul and yourself.

Friendly greetings to both. Write to me,

Sincerely, your cousin and friend,

Darby

T. B. FAVROT
COLLECTION

Handwritten in French. In 1980 original owned by Mrs. Marty Sims of
Nederland, Texas.